

Two handbell concert opportunities at University of Hartford, June 27 and June 30

West Hartford, CT – Whether you are a fan of handbell music or someone who has never seen a handbell concert, there will be two opportunities to experience this musical art form in all its glory, on June 27 and June 30, at the University of Hartford.

Handbell musicians, directors and educators from all over New England and beyond will gather on the University of Hartford campus in West Hartford for four days of educational workshops, massed ringing rehearsals, concerts, and the chance to network with others who share a love for handbells. This regional conference, produced bi-annually by Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America, will feature two outstanding handbell concerts that are open to the public, both held at venues on the University of Hartford campus.

On Thursday, June 27, at 8:15 pm, the nationally-touring handbell quartet, **Forté**, will present the Opening Concert of the 4-day Festival Conference, at the **Lincoln Theater**, located at 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT. Based in Colorado Springs, Forté is an advanced handbell quartet marked by artistry, energy, and dedication to their craft. For more information about Forté, visit fortehandbells.org. General admission tickets are \$10 each and available now for purchase online at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=101596>, or stop by or call the Lincoln Theater Box Office at 860-768-4228. Any remaining tickets will also be available for sale at the door on Thursday night.

On Sunday, June 30, at 3:00 pm, a Closing Concert will be held in the **Chase Family Arena**, located at 80 Sunny Reach Drive, West Hartford. This concert is free and open to the public and will feature music rung by 500+ handbell musicians! The ringers will also be accompanied by other instrumentalists, including the 5 Metal Chemistry Brass Quintet. At the conclusion of this concert, a free-will offering will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Bradford Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships to handbell musicians and directors attending a regional or national conference or seminar.

For more information about Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America, visit www.area1.handbellmusicians.org

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